

Mayor Ballard Announces Solid Waste Improvements that Save the City \$1 Million

Last week, Mayor Ballard greeted an excited group of residents at an open house announcing big changes to the solid waste pick-up procedures—changes that will save the city at least \$1 million. Nearly 100 people gathered to learn more about the 96 gallon trash cart roll-out and the changes to pick-up routes.

“Our research indicates that the \$1 million in savings is a conservative estimate. It will likely be even more,” Mayor Ballard revealed. “And we know that it’s important to taxpayers that we continue to look for this kind of savings.”

Where do the cost savings come from? One of the ways this savings is achieved is through eliminating costly, unnecessary overtime. The reason that 96 gallon trash carts are so much more efficient is that they can be picked up by a solid waste truck with an automated arm. This means that there will be fewer injuries for employees who are currently emptying cans manually. It also means that the pick-up will be more efficient and thus cover more homes in less time.

With the current route structure, the solid waste trucks, their staff, and the supervisors are spread all over the city on any given day. By making the routes more geographically compact, customer service will improve, problems will be addressed more quickly, and staff will be able to fill in the gaps more efficiently.

Beginning in mid-April, 60,000 residents will have a 96 gallon cart delivered to their homes. However, those residents receiving the new bins are not able to use them until June 7. Some residents already have these carts and are on routes that have the automated trucks to empty them; these residents should continue to use them. The carts are given to homes at no charge, but residents are reminded that the carts should be left at their homes even if they move to a different location.

You can learn more about the changes, check out some frequently asked questions, and find out how and if you are affected by entering your address at www.indy.gov/trashimprovements.

